

SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories 2015 Chikungunya Virus Cases

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After the bite of an infected mosquito, onset of illness occurs usually between 4 and 8 days but can range from 2 to 12 days. Chikungunya is characterized by an abrupt onset of fever frequently accompanied by joint pain. Other common signs and symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. The joint pain is often very debilitating, but usually lasts for a few days or may be prolonged to weeks. Hence the virus can cause acute, subacute or chronic disease.

Most patients recover fully, but in some cases joint pain may persist for several months, or even years. Occasional cases of eye, neurological and heart complications have been reported, as well as gastrointestinal complaints. Serious complications are not common, but in older people, the disease can contribute to the cause of death. Often symptoms in infected individuals are mild and the infection may go unrecognized, or be misdiagnosed in areas where dengue occurs. Co-infections of dengue and chikungunya can occur.

The geographic range of chikungunya virus is primarily in Africa and Asia and most recently in limited areas of Europe. For information on current outbreaks, consult CDC's Travelers' Health website (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>). Given the current large chikungunya virus epidemics and the world wide distribution of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, there is a risk of importation of chikungunya virus into new areas by infected travelers.

